

Please do not implement the digital TV broadcast flag. Hollywood and the networks are finally getting their chance to undue the VCR case they lost so many years ago and this time Congress and the FCC seem to be on their side. The VCR turned out to be a huge boon to Hollywood despite the "Chicken Littles" at the time who thought it would be the end of cinema in America. Just like those people were wrong so are the "Chicken Littles" of today. A broadcast flag is only going to serve as an impediment to legitimate use while not slowing real piracy at all. After reading the DMCA and the proposed copy protection requirements of the FCC it is pretty clear that the studios, lawmakers, and the FCC think every American is a criminal.

The genie is already out of the bottle with respect to home recording and there is no way to put it back in. People have been recording TV broadcasts for over two decades and somehow the networks have managed to stay in business. It's not the technology that needs to be bent to the will of the content providers but rather a case of the content providers needed to adapt to the technology. The utterly unlimited control over the consumer a broadcast flag would provide to the content providers is truly frightening to me. I hope it is to the FCC as well.